



**NELSON**  
community food centre

# Hitting our Stride

## 2019 Report from the Board

It's hard to write about what our organization accomplished in 2019, when it seems that 2020 has changed everything. However, we want to acknowledge the many people and organizations that helped us grow.

In 2019, we completed the first phase of renovations on our new Nelson Community Food Centre space. It took a lot of communication, collaboration and good will between both the boards, staffs and volunteers of NCFC and the United Church to transform the hall into the bright and cheerful space that serves all our needs, and that we can all feel proud of.

The first NCFC Board event in the new space was a celebration to thank our donors, funders and supporters. Susan Vardon from CFCC joined us, and led a board development workshop on fundraising while she was here.

The board and staff created a new mission statement in 2019: "To create opportunities for people facing adversity to share, connect and advocate around good food."

Strong vision and mission statements are so much more than words on a page — they guide us in our work, and act as both an anchor and a light in the tunnel in times of unexpected change. Later in 2019, Marya Scrypiczajco, our long-serving Executive Director, took a leave and Jessica Chant stepped in to do an admirable job of filling Marya's very large shoes as Interim Executive Director.

We ended the year in a strong place both fiscally, and in terms of staff, physical space and programming, ready for 2020 and the changes it will bring.

*Deryn Collier*

BOARD CO-CHAIR



# Year in Review

In 2019, the Nelson Community Food Centre team really hit our stride in delivering our new mission to “create opportunities for people facing adversity to share, connect and advocate around good food”.

Our Good Food Bank continued to deliver healthy food to those who need it most. Each week, NCFC staff and volunteers distributed fresh food on Monday afternoons and Wednesday mornings, providing a safe space to connect and load up on good food for the week. Food Skills programming brought together adults to learn new skills, gain confidence in the kitchen and enjoy delicious meals together. Based on participant feedback, we also increased our Community Dinners from four to ten times a year and brought together folks to enjoy a free, delicious meal.

2019 focused on creating and filling our 14 new garden beds with hearty local soil and seeds right in front of the Centre, in partnership with the City of Nelson and Community Food Centres of Canada. It was also a bumper year for our Harvest Rescue program, gleaning fruit from hundreds of trees in the area. Thanks to all of the tree donors, volunteers and staff who handled thousands of lbs of fruit (so many plums!) and shared the bounty with our Centre participants.

Thank you to our volunteers, staff, Board members, partners and donors for helping us achieve so many great things in the space of one year.



Our  
Mission

*“Knowing that this is here and that it’s consistent reduces my anxiety.”*

GOOD FOOD BANK  
PARTICIPANT



*“The CFC makes me feel useful. It’s important for me to be here and socialize. It’s an incredible group of people.”*

NCFC VOLUNTEER

*“My experience with the Food Centre has been wonderful – physically, mentally, socially.”*

GARDEN VOLUNTEER

---

**13,510** lbs of fruit harvested through Harvest Rescue Program

---

**1,800** people supported by our Good Food Bank

---

**1,340** healthy meals served and sent home

---

**3,654** volunteer hours across all programs

---

**107** Food Skills sessions offered

---

*To create opportunities for people facing adversity to share, connect and advocate around good food.*



# Looking Forward

2019 was a year of change for the Centre — new space, new staff, enhanced programming and new ideas. As our four programs (Good Food Bank, Food Skills, Garden and Harvest Rescue) evolve alongside our development as a Community Food Centre, we look forward to expanding the idea of how we bring people together around good food for all and why we do what we do.

Together, with program participants, community partners and donors, NCFC renovated our physical space to ensure a warm and welcoming environment and filled the hall with amazing programs where participants could celebrate good food and each other, building community with every bite.

New staff also brought new energy to our programming and organization. With new people in all program areas, we've been assessing program reach and have been working with local partners to make sure we are reaching those who need our support the most. We are so grateful for the work of our previous staff and are excited to see what our new staff bring to our programs. Amy, Dayna and Michaela have all learned on the go, and delivered relevant, successful programming for all to enjoy. We especially want to offer our thanks to Lisa Young, who has moved onto new opportunities.

This year was also our second year of Restaurants for Change, where local restaurants contributed a portion of their sales on World Hunger Day (October 16) to support the Community Food Centre. Five restaurants participated and participation was community-wide, demonstrating Nelson's passion for food and for community service.

We are grateful to have a seat at the table of the national network that the Community Food Centres of Canada provides for us. We look forward to working locally to connect all parts of our local food systems for the benefit of our community and bringing that connection to the work that's being done nationally to support food security for all.

*"The cooking classes are fun.  
The staff is so great."*

FOOD SKILLS PARTICIPANT

**98%** of people say that we provide an important source of healthy food

**85%** feel like they belong to a community here

**52%** of program participants said their physical health is better

**72%** of program participants said their mental health is better

**65%** of program participants are eating more fresh fruit & veggies



# A very big helping of thanks

As with every year, we have been able to thrive thanks to our many volunteers and the 3,500+ hours they put in. Hundreds and hundreds of individual donations big and small, great partnerships, and the Nelson community made it happen. We have limited space here, so we've only included major donors and funders below.



## Financial Snapshot

Fiscal Year // November 1, 2018 – October 31, 2019



*"[The new space] is warm, inclusive, and welcoming. Especially since the renovation. It doesn't have to look poor because it's a food bank."*

GOOD FOOD BANK PARTICIPANT

- Private grants – 62%
- Renovation – 46%
- Donations – 23%
- Program – 35%
- Government grants – 15%
- Administration – 12%
- In-kind donations – 1%
- Fundraising – 7%



602 SILICA STREET, NELSON, BC V1L 4N1  
250-354-1633 [WWW.NELSONCFC.CA](http://WWW.NELSONCFC.CA)



NCFC Staff (L to R): Jess Chant, Andrew Creighton, Dayna Jackson, Sherri Kyle, Michaela Woeller. (absent: Amy Villeneuve)